Title: The African Civet Cat (*Viverra civetta*) and Its Life Supporting Role in the Livelihood of Smallholder Farmers in Ethiopia

- **Background:** Ethiopia has 90% international export share and a long-lasting history of civet musk farming from civets kept in captivity.

- **Objectives:** to review prospect and retrospect of captive civet cats farming in Ethiopia.

### African civet cat

- Grouped under order *Carnivora* and family *Viverridae*
- Nocturnal, solitary
- Opportunistic omnivorous
- Age at sexual maturity ~ 1 year
- Gestation length 65 - 75 days
- Average lifespan 15-20 years
- Kits/ litter~1-4 & 2-3 litters/year

### Opportunities:

- Natural musk covers 22% of the international demand
- Preferred for high quality perfume production
- Source of export earning, way of life for farmers

### Threats:

- Demand and price fluctuations
- Considerable mistreatment
- Declining of the wild population
- Increasing tendencies towards synthetic fixatives
- Welfare problem

**Recommendation:** Extensive studies in wild and captivity and improving the husbandry practices leading towards domestication